

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02897 261831Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 261058Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4263

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2897

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 395 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO
BOMBAY 26 FEB 76

QUOTE:

MADRAS 395

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: "THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH YIELDING PLACE TO THE NEW"

1. CHIEF SECRETARY SABANAYAGAM DROPPED BY LAST EVENING TO TELL ME HE IS TRANSFERRED TO DELHI AS OF MARCH 15, AFTER HAVING EARLIER BEEN TOLD THAT HE COULD STAY HERE AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. SABANAYAGAM SAYS HE DOES NOT KNOW WHICH JOB HE IS GOING TO (HE SAYS DAVE'S JOB IN THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY, WHICH WAS OFFERED EARLIER, HAS ALREADY BEEN FILLED), BUT MENTIONED OSD IN THE CABINET SECRETARIAT AS A POSSIBILITY IF NO SUITABLE SECRETARYSHIP IS AVAILABLE. THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING, PROBABLY TO BE SECRETARY IN THE REHABILITATION MINISTRY. A MAN NAMED KARTHIKEYAN ("VERY DIFFERENT FROM ME," SAID SABANYAGAM) IS REPORTEDLY THE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY. KARTHIKEYAN, WHO HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING ANTI-DMK, IS BEING JUMPED OVER SEVERAL MORE SENIOR IAS OFFICERS.

2. WHEN I CALLED ON IGP ARUL TO SAY GOODBYE THE OTHER DAY, HE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 02897 261831Z

SAID HIS EXTENSION WAS UP THE END OF MAY AND HE WOULD THEN PROB-

ABLY GO INTO HIS WIFE'S FAMILY'S BUSINESS. HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WILL BE C.V. NARASIMHAN, A BRAHMIN, WHO IS NOW POSTED IN DELHI. SEVERAL OFFICERS MORE SENIOR TO NARASIMHAN ARE BEING PASSED OVER, INCLUDING K.R. SHENAI, THE FORMER COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY REGARDED AS ARUL'S HEIR APPARENT. SHENAI IS NOW COMPLETELY OUT OF THE RUNNING BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE DMK. WHEN I MADE MY FAREWELL CALL ON SHENAI ON TUESDAY, HE SAID THERE WAS FAR MORE CORRUPTION UNDER THE DMK THAN ANYONE HAD REALIZED, ETC. ETC., BUT THE NEW PROTECTIVE COLORATION COMES TOO LATE, FOR, ACCORDING TO ARUL, SHENAI WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO DELHI.

3. SEVERAL OTHER HIGHER LEVEL TRANSFERS ARE EXPECTED, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR AND SOME IAS OFFICERS AT THE SECRETARY LEVEL. THE NEW BROOM IS SWEEPING SMALLER CORNERS ALSO, WITH PEOPLE LIKE THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER, A RATHER CAPABLE LAWYER, BEING SACKED FOR HIS ALLEGED CLOSENESS TO THE DMK. AND AT THE LOWERT LEVELS, THE PRESSURES ON DMK OFFICE HOLDERS AND PARTY MEMBERS IS SO INTENSE THAT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES AT DMK HEADQUARTERS, PARTY MEMBERS ARE SUBMITTING THEIR RESIGNATIONS FROM THE DMK NOT TO THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS, BUT TO THE DISTRICT COLLECTORS.

4. A POIGNANT COMMENT CAME FROM A SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT. HE TOLD ME HE HAD HAPPENED TO BE IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF CENSOR AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT FORD'S CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA AND HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE REMARKS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO APPEAR IN THE INDIAN PRESS. THE CENSOR HAD REPLIED THAT IT WAS USEFUL FOR SUCH AMERICAN CRITICISM TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS SO THAT THE PRIME MINISTER COULD PUBLICLY REPLY TO IT. MY INFORMANT THEN ASKED THE CENSOR WHEN INDIANS WOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL RIGHTS WITH AMERICANS. HIS REMARK WAS REPORTED TO DELHI AND HE WAS ENJOINED BY DELHI TO "CURB HIS SENSE OF HUMOR". WHEN I LEFT HIS OFFICE HE WALKED ME TO THE ELEVATOR AND SAID: "TELL YOUR SUCCESSOR I AM A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. IF HE HEARS A KNOCK ON HIS DOOR AT MIDNIGHT, IT MAY BE ME ASKING FOR ASYLUM".

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 02897 261831Z

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Message Attributes

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